

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR TODARO, LORIGO, GREENE, AND MILLS**

**Re: Expansion of Essential Personnel for the Purposes of Crossing into the United States as a Canadian National**

**WHEREAS**, the Canadian Government on, August 9, 2021, reopened the border to citizens of the United States to cross into Canada for any reason provided they are vaccinated and follow certain new crossing procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States is continuing to restrict crossing from Canada to the United States by Canadian citizens with the exception of essential personnel, a policy that will remain in place until at least October 21, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, this continued policy of border closure has continued to separate families living near the borders of the two countries. This is especially true for residents who live near a border crossing and have relied on the ability to easily cross the border to visit loved ones; and

**WHEREAS**, this honorable body has previously urged for a full reopening of the Canada-US border by legislative resolution. Unfortunately, little action has been taken by the United States and legislation in Congress has stalled making it unlikely Erie County residents, some of whom have been separated for over a year and half now, will be reunited with their family and friends here in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, if it is this administration's position to retain the current border crossing restrictions for drivers from Canada, this honorable body suggests a consideration of alternatives to a full reopening that would at least allow families to reunite here in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, while most Canadian residents are unable to drive to the US, current policy does allow for Canadians to cross into the United States for "Essential Travel." This is defined as work and study, critical infrastructure support, economic services and supply chains, health, immediate medical care, and safety and security. Changing the definition of "essential travel" to include reuniting with relatives would provide relief to many residents that live in Erie County or near any other point of crossing and have Canadian relatives; and

**WHEREAS**, on top of the emotional toll, the border closure has imposed economic hardship as well. Billions of dollars of commerce cross the US-Canada boarder by rail and tourists spend an equally significant amount of money as well with the US Travel Association estimating a loss of \$1.5 billion in exports each month.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body again urges the President, Congress, and the State of New York to work together to allow for a fully reopened land border between the United States and Canada; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body urges President Biden to allow for a lapse in the restrictions against travel from Canada to the United States, which have been extended through October 21, 2021; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this body urges President Biden, in the event a full reopening is unable to be agreed on, to begin the process of reopening the border by expanding the definition of essential personnel to include Canadian residents who have family residing in the United States and to allow those individuals the ability to cross the United States and Canadian land borders; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States Joseph Biden, the Western New York Delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Western New York Delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Hochul, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution